Claims

1. A method of counting a number of cash items of the same type comprising periodic calibration that involves retrieving an earlier established weight for said type of cash items, weighing said number of cash items to determine the current established weight for said number of cash items and storing the current established weight for use as the earlier established weight in a following transaction, wherein said periodic calibration is initiated autonomously.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein re-calibration is programmed.

3. The method of any preceding claim wherein autonomous initiation of re-calibration takes place upon expiry of a time period since last calibration or re-calibration.

4. The method of any preceding claim wherein autonomous initiation of re-calibration takes place according to a predetermined schedule.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the predetermined schedule comprises fixed intervals between autonomous re-calibration initiations.

6. The method of Claim 4 wherein the predetermined schedule comprises regular intervals between autonomous re-calibration initiations

7. The method of Claim 4 wherein the predetermined schedule comprises variable intervals between autonomous re-calibration initiations.

8. The method of Claim 7 wherein the intervals vary in response to the difference between the earlier established weight and the current established weight.

9. The method of Claim 7 wherein the intervals vary in response to climatic conditions.

10. The method of any preceding claim wherein autonomous initiation of re-calibration takes place upon expiry of a random time period since last calibration or re-calibration.

11. The method of any preceding claim wherein autonomous initiation is effected by sensing a change in climatic conditions.

12. The method of Claim 11 or Claim 12 wherein autonomous initiation is effected by sensing a climatic change in excess of a pre-determined threshold.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein autonomous initiation is effected by sensing a change in temperature and/or humidity.

14. The method of any preceding Claim wherein a number of banknotes are counted.

15. Apparatus for counting cash items of the same type comprising:

weighing means for weighing a number of said cash items;

data storage means for storing weight data generated by the weighing means;

processing means for retrieving from the data storage means an earlier established weight for said cash items, and sending to the data storage means a re-established weight for said cash items following a re-calibration;

wherein said apparatus is arranged to initiate re-calibration autonomously.

16. The apparatus according to Claim 15 wherein the weighing means comprises a cash drawer or closed cash container

17. The apparatus according to Claim 15 or Claim 16 further adapted to initiate autonomous re-calibration upon expiry of a time period since the last calibration or re-calibration.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 15 or any dependent claim further adapted to initiate autonomous re-calibration according to a pre-determined schedule.

19. The apparatus according to Claim 18 wherein the predetermined schedule comprises fixed intervals between autonomous re-calibrations.

20. The apparatus according to Claim 18 wherein the predetermined schedule comprises regular intervals between autonomous re-calibrations.

21. The apparatus according to Claim 18 wherein the predetermined schedule comprises variable intervals between autonomous re-calibrations.

22. The apparatus according to Claim 21 wherein the intervals vary in response to the difference between standard and specific weights.

23. The apparatus of Claim 21 wherein the intervals vary in response to climatic conditions.

24. The apparatus of Claim 11 or any dependent claim further adapted to initiate autonomous re-calibration upon expiry of a random time period since last calibration or re-calibration.

25. The apparatus of Claim 11 or any dependent claim further adapted to initiate autonomous re-calibration upon sensing a change in climatic conditions.

26. The apparatus of Claim 25 further adapted to initiate autonomous re-calibration upon sensing a climatic change in excess of a predetermined threshold.

27. The apparatus of Claim 25 or Claim 26 further adapted to initiate autonomous re-calibration upon sensing a change in temperature and/or humidity.

31. The apparatus of any preceding apparatus claim wherein the apparatus comprises a cash register, an intelligent cash register or a cash drawer.